ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a concept search, the user cannot easily create an effective seed document own his/her own. Further, the concept search trainer automatically changes the weights assigned to characteristic terms; however, such changes may not always increase the retrieval accuracy. The document retrieval method of the present invention uses thesaurus data to support the user's seed document creation in a first search cycle and presents newly extracted characteristic terms to the user in second and subsequent search cycles. The retrieval accuracy increases because the present invention provides a user interface that permits seed document adjustment.